



I am Brian Posler, and I represent Fuel True Independent Energy and Convenience. We are the nonprofit statewide trade association representing the independent Kansas energy distribution companies and we serve as the voice of over 2000 fuel retailers throughout Kansas.

Chairman Thompson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. 253.

A great many states have figured out how to responsibly allow alcohol delivery, and creators of this bill learned from their experiences to maximize the good and minimize any adverse outcomes others experienced. Our state already allows importers to ship wine and spirits directly to consumers' homes. This bill authorizes the delivery of alcohol by retailers in much the same way grocery delivery is accomplished today.

Many of our members operate convenience stores in small towns throughout Kansas. Often, our businesses serve as the only grocery stores in their community, and without them, swaths of rural Kansas will become food deserts. This bill will allow them one more way to compete and survive.

I appreciate that the Chairman and this committee took the time to study in depth all of the potential concerns about this bill. Significant cooperation with the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) of Kansas ensures that this bill is fully compliant with existing laws and that all reasonable precautions are in place to eliminate delivery to those who shouldn't imbibe, whether it be underage, visibly intoxicated, or persons in locations where drinking shouldn't occur.

It's important to note that this bill does not require anyone to add delivery services from their establishment. It just permits those who wish to allow delivery from their store to be allowed to do so.

This bill may well increase the safety on our roads, for at night if an individual has been drinking responsibly but needs some additional supply for his guests, I'd much rather he call upon a trained delivery driver than take to the roads himself, putting both he and us at risk.

For retailers, grocery delivery has provided a convenient alternative to an in-store shopping trip to our customers' already busy lives. Allowing us to add another item from our shelves to a customer's order seems like a logical extension of that service.



INDEPENDENT ENERGY & CONVENIENCE

For these reasons, my members stand in support of this bill, and we ask you to recommend it favorably.